Be thou my aid, my tuneful song inspire,
And kindle, with thy own *productive* fire. *Dryden.*
If the *productive* fat of the marl be spent, it is not capable of being mended with new. *Mortimer.*
Numbers of Scots are glad to exchange their barren hills for our fruitful vales so *productive* of that grain. *Swift.*
Hymen's flames like stars unite,
And burn for ever one;
Chaste as cold Cynthia's virgin light,
Productive as the sun. *Pope.*
Plutarch, in his life of Theseus, says, that that age was *productive* of men of prodigious stature. *Broome.*

PRO'EM. *n. s.* [προοίμιον; *procæmium*, Lat. *proeme*, old Fr.] Preface; introduction.
So gloz'd the tempter, and his *proem* tun'd. *Milton.*
Thus much may serve by way of *proem*,
Proceed we therefore to our poem. *Swift's Miscel.*
Justinian has, in the *proem* to the digests, only prefixed the term of five years for studying the laws. *Ayliffe.*

PROFANA'TION. *n. s.* [*profanation*, Fr. from *profano*, Lat.]
1. The act of violating any thing sacred.
He knew how bold men are to take even from God himself; how hardly that house would be kept from impious *profanation* he knew. *Hooker, b. v. s.* 12.
What I am and what I would, are to your ears, divinity; to any others, *profanation*. *Shakesp. Twelfth Night.*
'Twere *profanation* of our joys,
To tell the laity our love. *Donne.*
All *profanation* and invasion of things sacred, is an offence against the eternal law of nature. *South.*
Others think I ought not to have translated Chaucer: they suppose a veneration due to his old language, and that it is little less than *profanation* and sacrilege to alter it. *Dryden.*
2. Irreverence to holy things or persons.
Great men may jest with saints, 'tis wit in them;
But, in the less, foul *profanation*. *Shakesp.*

PROFA'NE. *adj.* [*profane*, Fr. from *profanus*, Lat.]
1. Irreverent to sacred names or things.
Profane fellow!
Wert thou the son of Jupiter, and no more
But what thou art besides, thou wert too base
To be his groom. *Shakesp. Cymbeline.*
These have caused the weak to stumble, and the *profane* to blaspheme, offending the one, and hardening the other. *South.*
2. Not sacred; secular.
The universality of the deluge is attested by *profane* history; for the fame of it is gone through the earth, and there are records or traditions concerning it in all the parts of this and the new-found world. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
3. Polluted; not pure.
Nothing is *profane* that serveth to holy things. *Raleigh.*
4. Not purified by holy rites.
Far hence be souls *profane*,
The Sibyl cry'd, and from the grove abstain. *Dryden.*

To PROFA'NE. *v. a.* [*profano*, Lat. *profaner*, Fr.]
1. To violate; to pollute.
He then, that is not furnish'd in this sort,
Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight,
Profaning this most honourable order. *Shakesp.*
Foretasted fruit
Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first
Made common and unhallow'd. *Milton.*
Pity the temple *profaned* of ungodly men. 2 *Mac.* viii. 2.
How far have we
Profan'd thy heav'nly gift of poesy?
Made prostitute and prostigate the muse,
Debas'd. *Dryden.*
2. To put to wrong use.
I feel me much to blame.
So idly to *profane* the precious time. *Shakesp.*

PROFA'NELY. *adv.* [from *profane*.] With irreverence to sacred names or things.
I will hold my tongue no more, as touching their wickedness, which they *profanely* commit. 2 *Esdr.* xv. 8.
Let none of things serious, much less of divine,
When belly and head's full, *profanely* dispute. *B. Johns.*
That proud scholar, intending to erect altars to Virgil, speaks of Homer too *profanely*. *Broome's Notes on the Odyssey.*

PROFA'NER. *n. s.* [from *profane*.] Polluter; violater.
The argument which our Saviour useth against *profaners* of the temple, he taketh from the use whereunto it was with solemnity consecrated. *Hooker. b. v. s.* 12.
Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbour stained steel. *Shakesp.*
There are a lighter ludicrous sort of *profaners*, who use the scripture to furnish out their jests. *Gov. of the Tongue.*

PROFA'NENESS. *n. s.* [from *profane*.] Irreverence of what is sacred.
Apollo, pardon
My great *profaneness* 'gainst thy oracle! *Shakesp.*
You can banish from thence scurrility and *profaneness*, and restrain the licentious insolence of poets and their actors. *Dry.*

Edicts against immorality and *profaneness*, laws against oaths and execrations, we trample upon. *Atterbury.*

PROFE'CTION. *n. s.* [*profectio*, Lat.] Advance; progression.
This, with *profection* of the horoscope unto the seventh house or opposite signs, every seventh year oppresseth living natures. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

To PROFE'SS. *v. a.* [*professer*, Fr. from *professus*, Lat.]
1. To declare himself in strong terms of any opinion or passion.
Would you have me speak after my custom,
As being a *profess'd* tyrant to their sex. *Shakesp.*
Pretending first
Wise to fly pain, *professing* next the spy. *Milton.*
A servant to thy sex, a slave to thee,
A foe *professt* to barren chastity. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*
2. To make a show of any sentiments by loud declaration.
Love well your father;
To your *professing* bosoms I commit him. *Shakesp.*
3. To declare publickly one's skill in any art or science, so as to invite employment.
What, master, read you? first resolve me that.
—I read that I *profess* the art of love. *Shakesp.*
Without eyes thou shalt want light; *profess* not the knowledge therefore that thou hast not. *Ecclus* iii. 25.

To PROFE'SS. *v. n.*
1. To declare openly.
The day almost itself *professes* yours,
And little is to do. *Shakesp. Macbeth.*
They *profess*, that they know God, but in works they deny him. *Tit.* i. 16.
Profess unto the Lord, that I am come unto the country, which the Lord sware unto our fathers. *Deutr.* xxvi. 3.
2. To declare friendship. Not in use.
As he does conceive,
He is dishonour'd by a man, which ever
Profess'd to him; why, his revenges must
In that be made more bitter. *Shakesp.*

PROFE'SSEDLY. *adv.* [from *professed*.] According to open declaration made by himself.
I could not grant too much to men, that being *professedly* my subjects, pretended religious strictness. *King Charles.*
Virgil, whom he *professedly* imitated, has surpassed him among the Romans. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*
England I travelled over, *professedly* searching all places I passed along. *Woodward.*

PROFE'SSION. *n. s.* [*profession*, Fr. from *profess*.]
1. Calling; vocation; known employment.
I must tell you,
You tender more your person's honour, than
Your high *profession* spiritual. *Shakesp. Henry* VIII.
If we confound arts with the abuse of them, we shall condemn all honest trades; for there are that deceive in all *professions*, and bury in forgetfulness all knowledge. *Raleigh.*
Some of our *profession* keep wounds tented. *Wiseman.*
No other one race, not the sons of any one other *profession*, not perhaps altogether, are so much scattered amongst all *professions*, as the sons of clergymen. *Sprat's Sermons.*
This is a practice, in which multitudes, besides those of the learned *professions*, may be engaged. *Watts.*
2. Declaration.
A naked *profession* may have credit, where no other evidence can be given. *Glanvill's Sceps.*
Most prostigately false, with the strongest *professions* of sincerity. *Swift.*
3. The act of declaring one's self of any party or opinion.
For by oil in their lamps, and the first lighting of them, which was common to them both, is meant that solemn *profession* of faith and repentance, which all christians make in baptism. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
When christianity came to be taken up, for the sake of those civil encouragements which attended their *profession*, the complaint was applicable to christians. *Swift.*

PROFE'SSIONAL. *adj.* [from *profession*.] Relating to a particular calling or profession.
Professional, as well as national, reflections are to be avoided. *Clarissa.*

PROFE'SSOR. *n. s.* [*professeur*, Fr. from *profess*.]
1. One who declares himself of any opinion or party.
When the holiness of the *professors* of religion is decayed you may doubt the springing up of a new sect. *Bacon's Essays.*
2. One who publickly practises or teaches an art.
Professors in most sciences, are generally the worst qualified to explain their meanings to those who are not of their tribes. *Swift.*
3. One who is visibly religious.
Ordinary illiterate people, who were *professors*, that shewed a concern for religion, seemed much conversant in St. Paul's Epistles. *Locke.*

PROFE'SSORSHIP. *n. s.* [from *professor*.] The station or office of a publick teacher.
Dr. Prideaux succeeded him in the *professorship*, being then elected bishop of Worcester, Sanderson succeeded him in the regius *professorship*. *Walton.*

To PROFFER. *v. a.* [*profero*, Lat. *proferer*, Fr.]
1. To propose; to offer.
To them that covet such eye-glutting gain,
Proffer thy gifts, and fitter servants entertain. *Fairy Queen.*
None, among the choice and prime
Of those heav'n-warring champions, could be found
So hardy as to *proffer*, or accept
Alone, the dreadful voyage. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Does Cato send this answer back to Cæsar,
For all his generous cares and *proffer'd* friendship. *Addis.*
2. To attempt. *Ainsworth.*

PROFFER. *n. s.* [from the verb.]
1. Offer made; something proposed to acceptance.
Basilius, content to take that, since he could have no more, allowed her reasons, and took her *proffer* thankfully. *Sidney.*
Proffers, not took, reap thanks for their reward. *Shakesp.*
The king
Great *proffers* sends of pardon and of grace,
If they would yield, and quietness embrace. *Daniel.*
He made a *proffer* to lay down his commission of command in the army. *Clarendon.*
But these, nor all the *proffers* you can make,
Are worth the heifer which I set to stake. *Dryden.*
2. Essay; attempt.
It is done with time, and by little and little, and with many essays and *proffers*. *Bacon's Essays.*

PROFFERER. *n. s.* [from *proffer*.] He that offers.
Maids, in modesty, say no, to that
Which they would have the *proff'rer* construe ay. *Shakesp.*
He who always refuses, taxes the *proferer* with indiscretion, and declares his assistance needless. *Collier.*

PROFI'CIENCE. } *n. s.* [from *proficio*, Lat.] Profit; advance-
PROFI'CIENCY. } ment in any thing; improvement gained.
It is applied to intellectual acquisition.
Persons of riper years, who flocked into the church during the three first centuries, were obliged to pass through instructions, and give account of their *proficiency*. *Addison.*
Some reflecting with too much satisfaction on their own *proficiencies*, or presuming on their election by God, persuade themselves into a careless security. *Rogers's Sermons.*

PROFI'CIENT. *n. s.* [*proficiens*, Lat.] One who has made advances in any study or business.
I am so good a *proficient* in one quarter of an hour, that I can drink with any tinker in his own language. *Shakesp.*
I am disposed to receive further light in this matter, from those whom it will be no disparagement for much greater *proficients* than I to learn. *Boyle.*
Young deathlings were, by practice, made
Proficients in their father's trade. *Swift's Miscel.*

PROFI'CUOUS. *adj.* [*proficuus*, Lat.] Advantageous; useful.
It is very *proficuous*, to take a good large dose. *Harvey.*
To future times
Proficuus, such a race of men produce,
As in the cause of virtue firm, may fix
Her throne inviolate. *Philips.*

PROFI'LE. *n. s.* [*profile*, Fr.] The side face; half face.
The painter will not take that side of the face, which has some notorious blemish in it; but either draw it in *profile*, or else shadow the more imperfect side. *Dryden.*
Till the end of the third century, I have not seen a Roman emperor drawn with a full face: they always appear in *profile*, which gives us the view of a head very majestic. *Addison.*

PROFIT. *n. s.* [*profit*, Fr.]
1. Gain; pecuniary advantage.
Thou must know,
'Tis not my *profit* that does lead mine honour. *Shakesp.*
He thinks it highly just, that all rewards of trust, *profit*, or dignity should be given only to those, whose principles direct them to preserve the constitution. *Swift.*
2. Advantage: accession of good.
What *profit* is it for men now to live in heaviness, and after death to look for punishment? 2 *Esdr.* vii. 47.
Wisdom that is hid, and treasure that is hoarded up, what *profit* is in them both? *Ecclus.* xx. 30.
Say not what *profit* is there of my service; and what good things shall I have hereafter. *Ecclus.* xi. 23.
The king did not love the barren wars with Scotland, though he made his *profit* of the noise of them. *Bacon.*
3. Improvement; advancement; proficiency.

To PROFIT. *v. a.* [*profiter*, Fr.]
1. To benefit; to advantage.
Whereto might the strength of their hands *profit* me. *Job.*
Let it *profit* thee to have heard,
By terrible example, the reward
Of disobedience. *Milton's Par. Lost, b.* vi.
2. To improve; to advance.
'Tis a great means of *profiting* yourself, to copy diligently excellent pieces and beautiful designs. *Dryden.*

To PROFIT. *v. n.*
1. To gain advantage.
The Romans, though possessed of their ports, did not *profit* much by trade. *Arbuthnot on Coins.*
2. To make improvement.
Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them; that thy *profiting* may appear to all. 1 *Tim.* iv. 15.
She has *profited* so well already by your counsel, that she can say her lesson. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*
3. To be of use or advantage.
Oft times nothing *profits* more;
Than self-esteem grounded on just and right. *Milton.*
What *profited* thy thoughts, and toils, and cares,
In vigour more confirm'd, and riper years? *Prior.*

PROFITABLE. *adj.* [*profitable*, Fr. from *profit*.]
1. Gainful; lucrative.
A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man,
Is not so estimable or *profitable*,
As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. *Shakesp.*
The planting of hop-yards, sowing of wheat and rape-seed, are found very *profitable* for the planters, in places apt for them, and consequently *profitable* for the kingdom. *Bacon.*
2. Useful; advantageous.
To wail friends lost
Is not by much so wholesome, *profitable*,
As to rejoice at friends but newly found. *Shakesp.*
Then Judas, thinking indeed that they would be *profitable* in many things, granted them peace. 2 *Mac.* xii.
What was so *profitable* to the empire, became fatal to the emperor. *Arbuthnot on Coins.*

PROFITABLENESS. *n. s.* [from *profitable*.]
1. Gainfulness.
2. Usefulness; advantageousness.
We will now briefly take notice of the *profitableness* of plants for physick and food. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*
What shall be the just portion of those, whom neither the condescension or kindness, nor wounds and sufferings of the son of God could persuade, nor yet the excellency, easiness and *profitableness* of his commands invite? *Calamy's Sermons.*

PROFITABLY. *adv.* [from *profitable*.]
1. Gainfully.
2. Advantageously; usefully.
You have had many opportunities to settle this reflection, and have *profitably* employed them. *Wake.*

PROFITLESS. *adj.* [from *profit*.] Void of gain or advantage.
We must not think the Turk is so unskilful,
To leave that latest, which concerns him first;
Neglecting an attempt of ease and gain,
To wake and wage a danger *profitless*. *Shakesp.*

PROFLIGATE. *adj.* [*profligatus*, Lat.] Abandoned; lost to virtue and decency; shameless.
Time sensibly all things impairs;
Our fathers have been worse than theirs,
And we than ours; next age will see
A race more *profligate* than we,
With all the pains we take, have skill enough to be. *Rose.*
How far have we
Prophan'd thy heav'nly gift of poesy?
Made prostitute and *profligate* the muse,
Debas'd to each obscene and impious use,
Whose harmony was first ordain'd above
For tongues of angels, and for hymns of love. *Dryden.*
Though Phalaris his brazen bull were there,
And he wou'd dictate what he'd have you swear,
Be not so *profligate*, but rather chuse
To guard your honour, and your life to lose. *Dryden.*
Melancholy objects and subjects will, at times, impress the most *profligate* spirits. *Clarissa.*

PROFLIGATE. *n. s.* An abandoned shameless wretch.
It is pleasant to see a notorious *profligate* seized with a concern for his religion, and converting his spleen into zeal. *Add.*
I have heard a *profligate* offer much stronger arguments against paying his debts, than ever he was known to do against christianity; because he happened to be closer pressed by the bailiff than the parson. *Swift's Miscellanies.*
How could such a *profligate* as Antony, or a boy of eighteen, like Octavius, ever dare to dream of giving the law to such an empire and people. *Swift.*

To PROFLIGATE. *v. a.* [*profligo*, Lat.] To drive away. A word borrowed from the Latin without alteration of the sense, but not used.
Lavatories, to wash the temples, hands, wrists, and jugulars, do potently *profligate* and keep off the venom. *Harv.*

PROFLIGATELY. *adv.* [from *profligate*.] Shamelessly.
Most *profligately* false, with the strongest professions of sincerity. *Swift's Miscellanies.*

PROFLIGATENESS. *n. s.* [from *profligate*.] The quality of being profligate.

PROFLUENCE. *n. s.* [from *profluent*.] Progress; course.
In the *profluence* or proceedings of their fortunes, there was much difference between them. *Wotton.*

PROFLUENT. *adj.* [from *profluens*, Lat.] Flowing forward.
Teach all nations what of him they learn'd,
And his salvation; them who shall believe
Baptizing in the *profluent* stream, the sign
Of washing them from guilt of sin. *Milton.*

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